

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 311125
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EA:GMILLER

APPROVED BY:EA:GMILLER

-----049120 010113Z /66

R 310257Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 311125

CINCPAC FOR POLAD - FOR HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM STOCKHOLM DATED DECEMBER 29, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK, TOKYO, HONG KONG,
PEKING, VIENTIANE IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 5437

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CB, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH AMBASSADOR VISIT TO CAMBODIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND
JEAN-CHRISTOPHE OBERG, INTERVIEWED BY SWEDISH TELEVISION
AFTER RETURNING TO BANGKOK FROM A TWO-DAY "TOURIST VISIT"
TO CAMBODIA, DENIED SEEING ANYTHING THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE
WIDESPREAD REPORTS FOR REPRESSION BY THE KHMER REGIME.
OBERG REPORTED HAVING SEEN ONLY FOUR SOLDIERS AND FOUR
RIFLES DURING HIS STAY. HE MENTIONED HAVING SEEN
FARMERS WORKING IN THE FIELDS, BUT DENIED THAT THEY DID
SO UNDER ANY KIND OF MILITARY THREAT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 311125

2. THE VISIT OF OBERG AND HIS WIFE, ON DECEMBER 22-23,
WAS AT THE INVITATION OF CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IENG SARY AND WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED
IN THE SWEDISH MEDIA AS ONE OF THE VERY FEW THUS FAR BY
A WESTERN DIPLOMAT/TOURIST SINCE THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER
IN 1975. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING KAI BJORK, WHO IS
ACCREDITED AS WELL TO PHNOM PENH, VISITED CAMBODIA IN

FEBRUARY 1976. IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA INQUIRIES, THE MFA RATHER TESTILY POINTED OUT THAT OBERG'S TRIP WAS A PRIVATE AFFAIR, THAT HE HAD VISITED ANKOR WAT AND NOT PHNOM PENH, AND THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF OBERG'S ATTEMPTING TO "MEDIATE" THE BORDER CONFLICT WITH THAILAND. THE SWEDISH PRESS ALSO NOTED DENIALS BY THEIR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT OBERG WAS COMMISSIONED TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY IN RESOLVING THE DISPUTE WITH CAMBODIA.

3. UPON HIS RETURN, OBERG SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN EVENTS IN CAMBODIA BY POINTING TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S WILL TO CONSTRUCT A COMPLETELY NEW SOCIETY, ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN MODEL, AND WITHOUT REGARD FOR WORLD OPINION. OBERG INTERPRETED THE DECISION TO EMPTY CAMBODIA'S CITIES AS A RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT "LACKED THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPORTING THEM". ACCORDING TO OBERG, THE GOC IS WELL AWARE OF WHAT IS WRITTEN ABOUT THE COUNTRY IN THE WESTERN PRESS, BUT HAS "OTHER PRIORITIES" AND IS NOT CONCERNED WITH WHAT FOREIGNERS SAY OR THINK ABOUT THEIR POLICIES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: SOURCE AT MFA CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF MFA UNHAPPINESS OVER VISIT BY THE FLAMBOYANT OBERG AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLICITY GIVEN HIS STATEMENTS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ANGER WAS REGISTERED BY AMBASSADOR BJORK IN PEKING OVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 311125

OBERG'S INITIATIVE. THE CURRENT MINI-CONTROVERSY STIRRED BY "JEAN-CATASTROPHE" IS BUT ONE MORE IN A LONG SERIES BEGUN IN THE MID-SIXTIES WITH OBERG'S STRONG DEFENSE OF HANOI IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. THAT OBERG HAS NOT YET PUT ASIDE HIS INTEREST IN VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS WAS BORNE OUT BY HIS PARTICIPATION IN A RECENT TV PROGRAM HERE FOCUSED ON THE MASSIVE SWEDISH AID PROJECT AT BAI BANG NORTH OF HANOI. ON THAT OCCASION, OBERG SOUGHT TO JUSTIFY THE ACKNOWLEDGED WASTE OF FUNDS AND BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS THERE, WHICH SOME SWEDES NOW LABEL A SCANDAL OF WATERGATE PROPORTIONS, AS NATURAL AND INEVITABLE IN A COUNTRY RAVAGED BY WAR. PERHAPS A RATHER TYPICAL SWEDISH REACTION TO OBERG'S LATEST VENTURE WAS EXPRESSED BY AN EDITORIAL IN STOCKHOLM'S EXPRESSEN ON DECEMBER 29 WHICH STRONGLY DERIDED THE AMBASSADOR AS A NAIVE APOLOGIST OF THE HUMAN MASSACRES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN CAMBODIA. THE PAPER DEMANDED THAT OBERG BE CALLED HOME TO EXPLAIN HIS "REMARKABLE LACK OF JUDGEMENT" AND, FURTHER, CALLED FOR AN EARLY AND CLEAR STATEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD THE PHNOM PENH REGIME. KENNEDY-MINOTT UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE311125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA:GMILLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-1016
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaagh.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d6dd20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 100514
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH AMBASSADOR VISIT TO CAMBODIA
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CB, SW
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d6dd20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009